RESEARCH ARTICLE

A GNRE – INVESTIGATION ON THE FRONT PAGE FORMAT OF THE M.A. PARTIAL RESEARCHES OF TRANSLATION IN THE UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM

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ABSTRACT

The current study presents an analysis of the front-page format of 50 M.A. partial researches of Translation at the University of Khartoum. The main aim of the investigation is to examine whether the authors of such academic community have certain conventions in terms of the organization, positioning and order of the moves of format of the front page. The study employed the quantitative analysis method based on the CARS model 2004 version under the scope of Swalesian approach. In general, although the partial researches' front page format have shown a certain convention of writing , there are considerable variations as regards the order and number of the components of the format which amounted to 14 variables. The results of the study can be summarized as follows: the Basmala(In the name of Allah (God)) occupied the top position in most researches front page format scoring 66%. The name of the university came in the second position of the order reporting 60%, whereas in the third position of the format appeared the faculty registering the highest percentage with 54%. Moreover, in the fourth position, the unit (department) reported the highest percentage amounting to 56%, whereas in the fifth position came the title of the researches amounting to 56%. Furthermore, the highest frequency in the sixth position was made by Title reporting 22%. The researcher, finally, recommended the standardization of the front page format.

Keywords: Front page, genre, format, investigation, order.

Introduction

There is a growing interest in the concept of genre, whic is defined as " a recognizable communicative event characterized by a set of communicative purposes identified and mutually understood by the members of the professional or academic community in which it regularly occurs" (Swales, 1990). The evolution of new genres are gradually and obviously observable not only as textual organizations but also as having common meanings across various disciplines. Written genres like research articles, proposals, introductions and dissertations' sections have been examined in several studies (Bhatia ,1993; Swales,1990,). In such studies, much attention has been paid to the generic organization, the rhetorical moves and the steps forming the moves. Although, considerable research has been oriented around the organizational patterns of academic

genres, there is little research on the discourse structural and linguistic characteristics of the front pages' formats of dissertations.

Genre Analysis using rhetorical moves was originally developed by Swales (1981) to describe the rhetorical organization patterns of research articles . Its goal is to describe the communicative purposes of text by categorizing the various discourse units within the text according to their communicative purposes or the rhetorical moves. A move thus refers to a section of a text that performs a specific communicative function. Each move not only has its own purpose but also contributes to the overall communicative purposes of the genre. In Swales words these purposes together constitute the rationale for the genre , which in turn" shapes the schematic structure of the discourse and influences and constrains choice of content and style" within texts in a genre exhibiting " various patterns of similarity in terms of structure, style, content and intended audience" (Sawales, 1990).

Connor, Davis and De Rycker (1995), cited in Douglas et al (2007) note that in move analysis, the general organization patterns of texts are typically described as consisting of a series of moves, with moves being functional units in a text which together fulfill the overall communicative purpose of the genre. In addition, Connor and Mauranen (1991), cited in Douglas et al, say that Moves can vary in length, but normally contain at least one proposition. Some move types occur more frequently than others in a genre and can be described as conventional, whereas other moves occurring not as frequently can be described as optional. Moves mainly contain multiple elements that together, or in some combination, realize the move. These elements are referred to as' steps ' by Swales (1990) or strategies by Bhatia (1993a) The steps of a move primarily function to a chieve the purpose of the move to which it belongs (Swales, 1981). In short, moves present semantic functional units of texts that have specific communicative purposes. In addition, moves generally have distinct linguistic boundaries that can be objectively analyzed (Douglas, Ulla, Douglas, 2007).

Lewin, et al (2001) and Bhatia (1993a)underscored two additional characteristics of moves . The first is that some move types may be optional. Lewin and Bhatia employed the term strategy as opposed to 'steps ' with the aim of reflecting the variability among elements within a move. They also noted that move elements may or may not appear regularly , and they can be used in a different sequential order.

The section below section reviews the previous studies done on generic formats and templates. Various studies were conducted on news headlines' formats, CV templates ..etc as explored below.

Mohammad &Nafiseh (2011)conducted a study on 46 randomly collected M.A. theses . They examined the discussion subgenres and found that some moves are considered obligatory, conventional or optional . They also noted a significant difference in the move frequency of the discussion subgenres of the M.A. theses written by Iranian versus non Iranian EFL students.

In addition, De Souza (2004), cited in Jose (2016: 46) established an analogy between the media organization and the living beings organization , noticing that while in 'biology " various species constitute a genre on TV, "various formats constitute a genre program ". The format , however, is the substantial unity or material , with determined configuration and certain peculiar characteristics that distinguish the items of the same structure.

Moreover, Furka (2008) found that although students had had explicit instruction in CV writing in their Hungarian language and literature classes , only two out of nine students tried a table – format CV . His study showed that two CVs were closer to the template in format but some of the content's elements appeared sporadically. The study also examined if there are cultural characteristics of the parent culture.

Statement of the problem.

Many studies are prepared according to a format called IMRAD. Such abbreviation stands for the initial letters of Introduction, Material, Method, Results and Discussion. It indicates a pattern or a format rather than a whole list of components of dissertations. The missing parts of dissertation are the covers, or front pages of researches. The present researcher observed, from his own experience, that Translation graduates may

encounter some difficulties in writing and organizing the front pages' format. We noted some variations concerning the frequencies of occurrence of the components in terms of positioning in the format. Some partial researches showed non – standardized template in terms of the organization and order of the components.

Research Questions.

1. What component scored the highest frequency in the top of the format?
2. What component scored the highest frequency in the second position of the format?
3. What component scored the highest frequency in the third position of the format.
4. What component scored the highest frequency in the fourth position of the format?
5. What component scored the highest frequency in the fifth position of the format?
6. What component reported the highest frequency in the sixth position of the top-down order of the format?
7. What component registered the highest frequency in the seventh position of the top-down format?
8. What component made the highest frequency of eighth position of the format?
9. What component scored the highest frequency in the ninth position in the order of the format?
10. What component scored the highest frequency in the tenth position of the format?
11. What component made the highest frequency in the eleventh position in the order of the format?
12. What component scored the highest position in the twelfth position in the order of the format?
13. What component registered the highest frequency in the thirteenth position in the order of the format?
14. What component made the highest frequency in the fourteenth position in the order of the format?

Objectives of the study.

The current investigation aims to achieve the objectives below:

1. To know the highest frequency of every move in every position in terms of the order of the format.
2. To recognize whether there is a conventionalized order of the front page format.
3. To check whether the front-page format contains a cultural characteristic.

Research problem.

In spite of its presence in professional communication, very little attention has been paid to the discoursal structural and linguistic characteristics of front page template in format of academic dissertations. For the literature review, there seems to be a lack of substantial empirical research on the genre of front pages' templates of dissertations . Thus , a set of 50- front pages samples was collected . The sample was compiled in order to carry out an attempt at describing the generic characteristic of this genre. Doulgas,et al(2007) noted that by providing in – depth descriptions of one particular context , information for a wider decision – making perspective , such as writing practices for graduates, may be available.

Methodology.

Corpus – based analysis: A corpus – based approach requires analysis of a well – designed representative collection of texts of a particular genre. These texts are encoded electronically, allowing for more complex and generalizable research findings, revealing linguistic patterns and frequency information (Baker, 2006:2). That is not to say a corpus – based approach is simply a quantitative approach. Corpus – based discourse analysis depends on both quantitative and qualitative techniques. Even with a corpus – based approach the moves in every text must first be identified and tagged individually by the researchers making qualitative judgments about the communicative purposes of the different parts of a text. However, once quantitative data are managed, results will be interpreted functionally. According to Bibert.et al (1998:4) functional or qualitative interpretation is an essential step in any corpus – based analysis.

Data collection method.

The analysis of the present work is one on a large representative collection of 50 – front pages of partial researches submitted to the University of Khartoum in fulfilment of the requirements of Master degree in Translation. All texts were manually and randomly collected.

Data analysis method.

All the texts were electronically and manually coded to allow for computerized calculations using SPSS program. Once the coding rubric for move types were developed, all the texts in the corpus were coded to identify the functional units, their positioning and order in the format. The empirical part of the study is quantitative, qualitative and descriptive in nature and its main purpose is to generate a hypothesis regarding the front-page template in format writing practices.

Results and Discussion

Table (1). Frequencies and percentages of components in the first position.

Compo.	Frequency	Percentage
Univ	11	22.0
B	33	66.0
T	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

As indicated in table (1), B (Basmala) scored the highest frequency registering 33.0 in the first position in the organization and order of the format of the cover of M.A. partial translation researches. Following the Basmala , came the frequency of Univ (University) reporting 11.0, the second highest one in terms of position in the order and organization of the format. T (title) of thesis registered the lowest frequency in such position in the order of the format showing 12.0.

Table (2). Frequencies and percentages of components in the second position.

Compo.	Frequency	Percentage
F	9	18
T	5	10
Publish+Year	1	2
F-Unit	1	2
PrtR	3	6
Univ	30	60
Pstg	1	2
Total	50	100

As shown in table (2) above, Univ (university) made the highest frequency in terms of the second position in the order and organization of the format registering 60.0. It is clear that F (faculty) recurred less than University in the same second position of the order of the format. In the second position of the order and organization of the format other element recurred with lesser frequencies ranging from 1 to 5 as indicated in the table above where T (title) frequented 5 times, F –U (Unit belonging to the faculty) 1 time, PrtR (partial Research submitted to the University of Khartoum in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of M.A. in Translation.), pstg (Postgraduate)made 1.0 and publishing year 1.0.

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Table (3). Frequencies and percentages of components in the third position.

Compo.	Frequency	Percentage
Unit	9	18.0
Pstg	4	8.0
A	4	8.0
PrtR	1	2.0
Trans	2	4.0
Edition	1	2.0
F	27	54.0
T	1	2.0
Prep. by	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

As reflected by table (3) above, the third position in terms of the order and organization of the format is occupied by various components . F (faculty) represented the highest frequency registering 54.0 ,   Unit (department) reported 18.0 . The other components recurred with different percentages ranging from 1 to 4 times as shown by the table where A (author) recurred 8.0, Pstg (postgraduate) 8.0, Trans (translated by) 8.0, Edition 2.0 and Prep.by (prepared by) 2.0.

Table (4). Frequencies and percentages of components in the fourth position.

Component	Frequency	Percentage
T	9	18
A	3	6
Unit	28	56
Prep.by	1	2
PrtR	3	6
Publisher	1	2
F	2	4
Qua	3	6
Total	50	100

As seen above, table (4) indicates different components recurring with various frequencies in the fourth position in the hierarchical order and organization of the format or front page where the unit (department) reported the highest percentage making 56.0. The other components came as follows. T (Title) indicated 18.0 , A (author) 6.0, Prep.by(Prepared by) 2.0, PrtR (partial research) 6.0, publisher 2.0, F (Faculty) 4.0 and Qua (Qualifications) 6.0.

Table (5). Frequencies and percentages of components in the fifth position.

Component	Frequency	Percent
S	3	6
Prep.by	4	8
T	27	54
Qua	1	2
Editor	1	2
PrtR	6	12
Unit	2	4
Press	1	2
Y.ed	1	2

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A	2	4
Publisher	1	2
Univ	1	2
Total	50	100

Table (5) above represents the components' position in the order and organization of the front page. As indicated, T (title) made the highest frequency occupying the fifth order in the hierarchy with the recurrence of 19 times reporting 54.0. The other components recurred in such position with lesser and different percentages. As shown, the S (supervisor) recurred 6.0, Prep.by (prepared by) 8.0, Qua (qualifications) 2.0 , Editor 2.0, PrtR (partial research) 12.0, unit (department) 4.0, press 2.0 , year.ed (year edition) 2.0, A (author) 4.0 , publisher 2.0 and univ (university) 2.0 .

Table (6). Frequencies and percentages of components in the sixth position.

component	Frequency	Percentage
Prep. by	3	6
Qua	2	4
T.	11	22
A	10	20
Year	5	10
S.aff	3	6
PrtR+Year+Month	1	2
Publisher	1	2
PrtR	7	14
Sec.S	3	6
Transt.by	3	6
S	1	2
Total	50	100

As table (6) shows,T (title) reported the highest percentage registering 22.0, then A (author)registering 20.0,while PrtR (partial Research submitted to Khartoum University in fulfillment of the requirements for the M.A. in Translation) indicated the highest third percentage 14.0 in the sixth position in the order and organization of the front page format The other components recurred in the same position with lesser and various frequencies. Prep.by frequented 6.0, Qua (qualifications) 4.0, year 10.0, S.aff (Supervisor affiliation)6.0, prtR+ year and month 2.0, trans (translated by)6.0, sec (second supervisor)6.0 and S (supervisor)2.0

Table (7). Frequencies and percentages of components in the seventh position.

component	Frequency	Percentage
Prep. by	4	8
S	7	14
Year	5	10
PrtR	10	20
A	14	28
Collected by	1	2
Edition	1	2
Trans.by	4	8
Prsnt.by	1	2
None	2	4
T.A	1	2
Total	50	100

Table (7) above reflects the frequency of the components occupying the seventh position in the order and organization of the front page format where component A (author) indicated the highest frequency recurring 14 times and registering 28.0.The other components recurred as follows. PrtR (partial research) indicated the second highest percentage registering 20.0 while S (supervisor) reported 14.0 ,Prep.by (prepared by) represented 8.0 , trans.by (translated by) showed 8.0, whereas Year 10.0 , collected by 2.0, prsnt (presented by)2.0 , T (title) 2.0 and none 2.0 . (year plus month) 4.0 , none 4.0 , T.A (title in Arabic) 2.0 and year of publish 2.0

Table (8). Frequencies and percentages of components in the eighth position.

component	Frequency	Percentage
Univ	2	4
Year	4	8
Prep.by	4	8
S	9	18
PrtR	8	16
A	6	12
Unit	2	4
Transt by	6	12
Revi	1	2
F	1	2
A.E	1	2
None	6	12
Total	50	100

Table (8) above represents the frequencies of the components which surfaced up in the 8th position in the order and organization of the front page format . It is obvious that S (supervisor) made the highest frequency in this position recurring 18.0 .The other moves frequented as follows. PrtR (partial research) 16.0, A (author) 12.0 while none reported 12.0 ,trans (translated by) 12.0 , year 8.0 and prep.by 8.0.It is obvious that other moves showed less percentages in the same position like univ (university) which registered 4.0 , unit (department) 4.0 , Revi (revision) 2.0 , F (faculty) 2.0 and   A.E (author written in English) 2.0 .

Table (9). Frequencies and percentages of components in the ninth position.

component	Frequency	Percentage
T.Ar	1	2.0
Transt. by	4	8.0
S	18	36.0
Prep. by	6	12.0
F	3	6.0
Qua	1	2.0
A.E	1	2.0
Year	4	8.0
PrtR	3	6.0
Unit	1	2.0
None	8	16.0
Total	50	100.0

Table (9) , as shown above , reflected the moves and their positioning in the order and organization of front page format. The S (supervisor) recurred 18 times making the highest percentage 36.0 .The other moves

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recurred as follows. Prep.by (prepared by)   indicated 12.0, trans (translated by) 8.0 and year 8.0. Both F (faculty and prtR (partial research) showed 6.0 while T.A (title written in Arabic) reported 2.0 , Trans. (translated by) 8.0, Qua (qualifications) 2.0, A.E(author written in English) registered 2.0, unit (department) 2.0 and None 8 times.

Table (10). Frequencies and percentages of components in the tenth position.

component	Frequency	Percentage
S	15	30.0
Prep.by	1	2.0
PrtR	1	2.0
Unit	2	4.0
None	16	32.0
Place	1	2.0
Year	10	20.0
Stamp	1	2.0
transt	1	2.0
Transt by	1	2.0
A.Ar	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Table (10) above, as seen, represented the components which recurred in the 10th position in the order and organization of the cover format. None had the highest frequency recurring 32.0, whereas S (supervisor) made 30.0. As indicated the other elements recurred as follows. Year reported 20.0 whereas   unit registered 4.0.It is clear all the other moves recurred showing the same percentage 2.0. As seen in the table above , Prep.by (prepared by) represented 2.0,, PrtR (partial research) 2.0, place 2.0 , ,stamp 2.0 , trans (translation) 2.0 Transt by (translated by) 2.0 and A (author) 2.0.

Table (11). Frequencies and percentages of components in the eleventh position.

component	Frequency	Percent
Qua	1	2.0
Place	1	2.0
Year	8	16.0
S	7	14.0
Trans.	1	2.0
None	30	60.0
Stamp	1	2.0
Pub.Ar	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Table (11) above shows the positioning of the elements in the order and organization of the front page format. As indicated in the 6th position, various moves frequented differently. None indicated the highest percentage making 60.0 , whereas year showed the second highest percentage 16.0. S (supervisor) registered 14.0 , Qua(qualification) 2.0,place 2.0 ,   trans (translation of) 2.0, stamp 2,0 and pub. Ar (publisher written in Arabic)2.0.

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Table (12). Frequencies and percentages in the twelfth position.

component	Frequency	Percentage
S.	3	6
Qua	1	2
None	44	88
Year	2	4
Total	50	100

Table (12) shows the elements which recurred in the 12th position in the order and organization of the first page format. As represented, None had the highest frequency in such position representing 88.0 , then S (supervisor) which recurred 3 times making 6.0. The Qua (qualifications) reported 2.0 , whereas year showed 4.0 in such position.

Table (13). Frequencies and percentages of components in the thirteenth position

component	Frequency	Percent
Year	2	4
S	3	6
None	44	88
PrtR	1	2
Total	50	100

As table (13) shows, various elements frequented in the 13th position where None recurred 44 times reporting 88.0, S (supervisor) made 6.0 and PrtR (partial research) indicated 2.0..

Table (14). Frequencies and percentages of components in the fourteenth position.

component	Frequency	Percentage
Year	5	10
None	45	90
Total	50	100

As represented by in table (14) above, it is clear that the 14th position in the order of the format was occupied by a few components . None recurred 45 times representing 90.0, whereas year made 10.0 .

Conclusion

To conclude up, the present research investigated the frequencies of the components in terms of order and organization of the first page format of the partial researches submitted to the University of Khartoum in fulfillment of the requirements of M.A. in translation. It was observable that the components reflected significant differences in the frequencies of the components in the same position ,the matter which showed no strict conventional standard of organization and order when the researchers wrote the front page. The results also indicated that some components like qualification (Q), Stamp, expressions of " translation of " and translated by frequented at very low percentage which reflected their non -significance . However, expressions such as trns.of and trns.by (translation of and translated by) seemed to be substitutes of the expression "prep.by" which scored the highest frequency and percentage implying they are conventional .Moreover it was found that certain components reported the highest frequency in certain positions in the order and organization of the format as follows respectively: Basmala (naming of Allah) in the first position; Unversity in the second position;Faculty in the third position; Unit in the fourth position; Title in the fifth position ; Author in the seventh position; Supervisor in the nineth position; and Partial research (PrtR) in the seventh position. It was obvious that some components showed highest frequency in one position like Author and partial research but with a significant difference. Depending upon the results above, we recommend a front page format as follows: Basmala>University>Faculty>Unit>Title>Author> Partial Research submitted to the University of Khartoum in fulfillment of the requirements of M.A.> Prepared by >Supervisor> Year .We also recommend that Academic Front page format writing should be instructed by supervisors to their students who should be move – sensitive.

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